



# News Release

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85-11  
April 28, 2011

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **Abraham Lincoln's White House quill pen is artifact of the month for May**

***Each month, a different major artifact from the recently acquired Taper Collection will be featured at the Lincoln Presidential Museum***

*SPRINGFIELD* – The quill pen Abraham Lincoln used at his desk in the White House is the artifact of the month for May at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM), the latest in a series featuring key items from the Taper Collection recently acquired by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation.

“No quill pen from Lincoln’s earliest days survives now – 21<sup>st</sup>-century school kids don’t save pencils, do they? – but he had enough heart for his early ways that he still used a quill pen long into the era when manufactured pens and pencils were readily available,” said ALPLM Lincoln Curator James Cornelius. “We know that at times as a boy on the frontier he made ink from berries and used a goose quill just like this one to write. And we know that he kept this very quill alongside more modern implements on his desk in the Executive Mansion, where Lincoln’s bodyguard found it the day after the assassination. We hope that it now has a permanent home in Springfield, Illinois, for kids and adults to see.”

The pen will be removed from public display on May 31, and another key artifact from the Taper Collection will take its place.

The artifacts of the month are displayed in the central case in the Presidential Museum’s Treasures Gallery and include interpretive text explaining their significance. These displays will also highlight the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation’s Permanent Home Campaign. The \$27-million fundraising drive, established to ensure that the 1,500-item Louise and Barry Taper Collection remains together as a collection and is preserved in perpetuity for the benefit of the public, began in 2008 and continues through 2013.

The story of the April 2011 artifacts as told by the ALPLM's Lincoln Curator may be viewed at: [NEED LINK](#). A podcast may be accessed at [NEED LINK](#).

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, in partnership with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, offers monthly artifact sponsorships entitled "An Evening of Wine, a Nibble of Cheese, and A Hint of History." The private events, hosted by a Lincoln historian, highlight a featured artifact from the Taper Collection and include light hors d'oeuvres and wine for a select number of guests. For more information on how to become a sponsor or to donate to the Permanent Home Campaign, contact Phyllis Maynerich at (217) 557-6250 or [pmaynerich@alplm.org](mailto:pmaynerich@alplm.org). Event sponsorships are tax deductible as allowed by law.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation supports the educational and cultural programming of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; fosters Lincoln scholarship through the acquisition and publication of documentary materials relating to Lincoln and his era; and promotes a greater appreciation of history through exhibits, conferences, publications, online services, and other activities designed to promote historical literacy.

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